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SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
TIMES

AUG 31, 1977

E - 54,303

S - 48,186

## CIA Used Prostitutes To Administer Drugs

Obviously, an organization in the spying business cannot do its business in public. If it did, it would not learn many important secrets.

Yet, with human nature being what it is, such an organization cannot be allowed to do absolutely anything it wants under the veil of secrecy. That only invites trouble.

Consider the latest revelation about the Central Intelligence Agency as it was being operated about 20 years ago. It actually opened houses of prostitution in San Francisco and New York City with the purpose supposedly being to secretly observe how unsuspecting male customers would react to doses of LSD and other drugs that were being administered to them without their knowledge.

As detailed at a hearing by a Senate subcommittee on the CIA's drug and mind-bending experiments of the 1950s and 1960s, a CIA agent would observe from behind a two-way mirror as prostitutes would slip their customers various chemical compounds that the agency was testing.

This sounds like kinky sex from a pornography movie studio rather than a

serious spying operation. Yet, we are told that it happened.

The United States government paid the prostitutes \$100 a day as "informers." This makes one wonder if they did not think someone in Washington must have been absolutely crazy to be subsidizing them in their own illicit activities.

This is not the first nor is it expected to be the last revelation of outrageous conduct during the days when the CIA operated with such secrecy that even the people who thought they were operating the agency knew all of its activities. Not just males in CIA houses of prostitution, but subway riders in New York City and many other unsuspecting people throughout the nation were secretly exposed to chemical compounds, drugs and biological agents as part of this overall program. In the most celebrated case, a man died when he leaped from a window while under the influence of LSD.

We know the nation needs an intelligence agency. But never again must the CIA be allowed such autonomy that it can engage in such disreputable conduct.